in different stages. The Public Canals and Ferries Bill was dealt with in Committee, and later on in the Council, during the year. It has been finally passed into law since the year closed. The Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Civil Courts was dealt with in Committee, and the Committee's report was also considered by the Council, during the year. The Bill awaits final passing. The Treasure Trove Bill, the Arms Bill and the Factories Bill were introduced into the Council and referred to Committees during the year. Leave to introduce was given in regard to several Bills during the year, of which the most important was the Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. This Bill has been introduced into the Council since the close of the year. The High Court Regulation Amendment Bill, which had been introduced into the Council in 1081, was withdrawn, as it was considered that the question of amending the constitution of the High Court should lie over till the constitution of the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court had been amended. The Registration Regulation Amendment Bill was also withdrawn during the year, as it was found that the amendments proposed were not exhaustive and it was considered expedient to withdraw the defective Bill, so that a more exhaustive one might be introduced later on.

It was urged at the last session that legislation should be undertaken for the purpose of making certain changes in the customary law governing Marumakkathayies and I then promised tha the whole question would be referred to a Committee for investigation and report. A Committee was appointed—with Mr. Justice Govinda Pillai as the President—the enquiry being restricted to the Samantha and Nair communities. The report of the Committee has been received and has been ordered to be published in the Gazette. Public opinion—of the communities affected—has been invited and the question would be taken up for consideration six months hence.

Police.

17. Revision of staff.—The scale of pay of the subordinate ranks of the force was revised during the year. There were, according to the old scale, seven classes of Inspectors, with pay ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100, three of Head Constables, from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20, and three of Constables, from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8. Under the revised scale, Inspectors are divided into five grades on Rs. 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150, and the Constables into two grades on Rs. 8 and 7. The horse allowance of the Inspectors was raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per mensem and local allowances were increased in certain cases. The number of Inspectors was reduced by one. The net result of the reorganisation was an increase of annual expenditure to the extent of Rs. 25,641.

18. Crimes generally.—The number of cases reported to the Police, that dealt with by them, and the results of their action practically remained the same as in the previous year. There was one incident however which requires special mention and that is the serious riot which occurred in the Trivandrum town on the 8th June last. A mob collected in front of the Palace and began rioting there, and later on, it proceeded to the Fort Police Station and set fire to it, the result being that a portion of the building was burnt down. As the case is now under trial in the Trivandrum Sessions' Court, I refrain from making any observations, except to say that steps are being taken to amend the Police Regula-

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